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Town of Scott barn destroyed by fire on Thanksgiving Day

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Lincoln County Dispatch Center received a 911 call at 4:45 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day. “Shortly before 5:00 a.m. on Nov. 24, 2022, the Merrill Fire Department (MFD) was notified by the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO) Communication Center of a structure fire at W5935 Church Ave. in the Town of Scott,” said MFD Battalion Chief John Kraegenbrink. “Initial dispatch information was for a growing fire in the barn and that the reporting party was trying to remove his cattle from the barn.”

Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office deputies were en route to the scene.

“The initial response from the Merrill Fire Department included Merrill Engine 61, Tender 65, and Medic 62,” Kraegenbrink said. “Additional resources were requested from Tomahawk EMS,

See **FIRE** page 6



Christmas is coming to Merrill

Walking into the O’Tannenbaum Tour is a little like taking a trip into a magical Christmas wonderland. This image was taken at the 2021 O’Tannenbaum Tour.

Tina L. Scott photo.

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

It’s official ... Christmas is coming to Merrill and will soon be here. It’s now December, we’ve already seen a little snow, the City has the snowflakes up on the light poles around town, and Merrill is ready to get into the Christmas spirit.

Holiday Shop, Sip, and Support

The Merrill Area Enrichment Center, 303 N. Sales St. (the big red building on the northwest corner of the Merrill Festival Grounds)

will host a Holiday Shop, Sip, and Support event on Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The event will feature local boutiques and direct sales vendors for some holiday shopping, and you can sip a favorite beverage while you shop. Admission is free and everyone who attends will be entered into a special drawing. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Christmas Spirit Lincoln County United Giving Tree Program.

Live Nativity/free Christmas movie

Trinity Lutheran Church will kick things off with their annual

Outdoor Living Nativity and a free Christmas movie Friday evening, Dec. 2, 2022. [See article on page 2.]

Living River Christmas Concert

St. Stephens UCC, 903 E. Second St. in Merrill, will host Living River Quartet who will give a Christmas concert performance at 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening, Dec. 2, in the church sanctuary. The public is invited, and free will offerings are welcome.

O’Tannenbaum Tour

On Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10:00 a.m.,

See **CHRISTMAS** page 7

Annual Merrill Lighted Parade

Saturday, December 3rd at 5 pm
Line-up begins at 4 pm

Line-up starts on South Genesee Street and is first come, first serve. No prearranged order.

Santa stops at Bankers Square to light the Christmas tree. The parade ends at the Courthouse.

Please call the Chamber office with questions or to register your float 715-536-9474.

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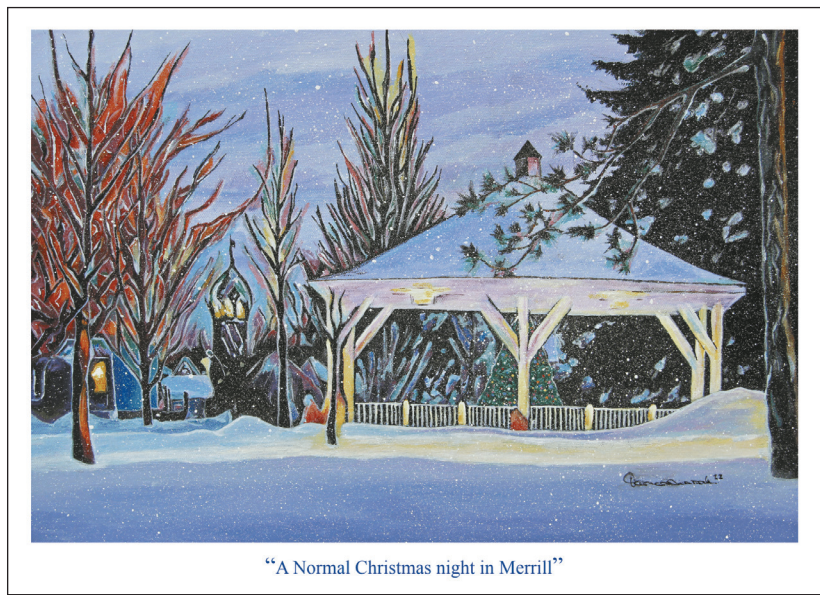
Marczak’s artwork is featured on annual Merrill Chamber Christmas card

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce has unveiled the 2022 Merrill Chamber Christmas card and print, depicting the gazebo in Normal Park on a beautiful snowy day during the Christmas season. This year’s winning art was again created by Tamara Marczak of Gleason who submitted her entry titled “A Normal Christmas night in Merrill.”

Each year the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce holds a contest for local artists to submit their artwork to be considered for the official annual Christmas card and

See **CARD** page 7



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Trinity Merrill Outdoor Live Nativity reenacts the Christmas story Friday evening

Free event includes live animals, soup, and a Christmas movie, too

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill will bring the Christmas story to life with an Outdoor

Living Nativity on Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, from 4:00-6:30 p.m. in the church parking lot on the corner of State and Main Streets. All are invited to drive by

or walk through to see the human characters reenact the story, along with live animals, and to be reminded of the reason for the season.

"Hear the angels proclaim the Good News and witness the shepherds rushing to see the Newborn King," organizers at Trinity say. The Christmas story will be broadcast at the event, and those driving by can also hear the story as it unfolds on their car radios. The electronic sign at Trinity will provide the station numbers so driv-

ers passing by can tune in to hear it.

The live animals involved in the Living Nativity are from Kraft's Kuddly Kritters Petting Zoo from Athens, and the kids can pet them when they visit the nativity.

In addition, the church will offer free chili and creamy chicken wild rice soup and warm apple cider, along with a free gift.

A Christmas bake sale will also take place in the church basement during this time.

And to complete the evening and their kick-off



Trinity's Outdoor Living Nativity story culminates in the birth of Jesus, the reason for the season. Submitted photo.

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Winter parking restrictions

The Merrill Police Department would like to remind residents that Merrill's winter parking restrictions go into effect on Dec. 1.

Winter odd/even day parking restrictions:

During December, January, February, and March, no person shall park any vehicle on any street except on:

- The odd-numbered side of any street on odd-numbered calendar days.
- The even-numbered side of any street on even-numbered calendar days. (some exceptions/

See **PARKING** page 8

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Saturday, December 24th @6:30pm (Candlelight service)

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Merrill's magical annual O'Tannenbaum Tour is December 3 and 4

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Merrill will host their annual O'Tannenbaum Tour on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. Stephens Church, 903 E. Second St. Organizers will once again transform the church basement into a magical Christmas wonderland, raffling off all the decorated Christmas trees, wreaths, and gift baskets on display, as a 4-H and community fundraiser.

This year's theme is "Santa's Workshop," and adult admission is \$3, children ages 6-12 are \$1, and age 5 and under are free. Proceeds from admission and raffles "go to the Lincoln County 4-H programs and then any left-over proceeds will be distributed to other organizations that lost State funding such as Dare Programs in Merrill and Tomahawk, Backpack programs in Merrill and Tomahawk, Food for Kids, Respite Care, Enrichment Center, the Fair, Haven, and the VFW, just to name a few," said Cheryl Buck, one of the organizers, describing where proceeds have been used in years past.

Area Christmas tree growers provide the 25 Christmas trees, including Grisa Evergreen, High Ground Tree Farm, Northwoods Evergreen, Smilin' John's Tree Farm, Wisconsin Evergreen Co., Prairie River Tree Farm, Kings Evergreen and Wreaths, and Fritz's Mountain. Other area businesses and organizations then decorate the trees to create the magical tour. "We limit the Tour to 25 trees due to space," Buck said.

O'Tannenbaum Tour organizers typically reach out to area businesses by letter each year, explaining there are five ways to participate in the Tour. Interested businesses and organizations can choose to: 1) Decorate a tree, from skirt to topper; 2) Create and donate a gift basket; 3) Decorate and donate a wreath; 4) Make a monetary gift to a particular 4-H Club of their choice; or 5) Make a monetary gift to the O'Tannenbaum Tour to use for printing, advertising, and set up costs. Participating businesses are listed in the booklet for the annual O'Tannenbaum Tour, which shows all of the trees, wreaths, gift baskets, and other items available for raffle during the tour and who sponsored each. Each person receives a copy of the booklet at the beginning of the tour. Businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals are welcome to participate as sponsors or donors.

Event organizers go all out to create the festive atmosphere of the tour, themselves dressing in evening wear, with the occasional costumed character on hand for the kids. Santa visits sometimes, too.

Musical entertainment provides an extra seasonal touch. This year, Saturday's entertainment will include the CM Singers, Mary Banser, Katz Piano students, juggler John Kilgust, Zendor Comedy Magician, Mary Ament on the harp, Jeanie Nienow, the Merrill High School Band, the TLC Bronze Bell Choir from Trinity, and Mike Geisler on the accordion, all scheduled throughout the day. On Sunday, Kelly, Greg, and Tony from the Honky Tonk Highway Band are scheduled to perform for an hour.



The O'Tannenbaum Committee works hard to create a magical experience for everyone who comes through the annual O'Tannenbaum Tour at St. Stephens Church in Merrill. Here, a peek at the ladies who helped make it all possible in 2021.

Photo courtesy of O'Tannenbaum Committee.

There is room for additional entertainers to get on the schedule on both days. Anyone who wishes to perform or provide entertainment should call Cheryl Buck at 715.297.3424. A piano and music stands are available on site.

Polka Dotted Pie will provide the cookies, and Merrill Distributing will provide complimentary coffee, hot cocoa, and cappuccino during the tour.

Pet of the Week



This goofy, energetic boy is **Truman!** He came to the shelter as a stray the end of August. He is looking for a forever home to call his own! **Truman** loves to be around people and play with his toys. He likes to be around other dogs, so a home with another playful dog would be great. Stop in to meet **Truman** today!

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OBITUARIES



Bobbie Grund

On November 18, 2022, God came down to collect one of his angels. Bobbi Grund was 63 years old, born on November 22, 1959. I know the math doesn't add up, but she earned those four days. Bobbi was an amazing mother, sister, and friend. She was born and raised here in Merrill, where throughout her time here was able to touch so many lives as a bartender/owner of Grund's Bar. Bobbi also worked as an insurance agent at the hospital in

town, and eventually getting her CDL license to drive semi's. Sadly cut short by stage 4 lung cancer diagnosis. As a testament to her spirit, she continued to work for Sierra Pacific until her illness overcame her determination. Anyone who knows her, knew that was not the end of her fight. She continued to battle with grace and fearlessness. Facing any treatment possible right down to her final days.

Bobbi would not want to be remembered for her illness but instead for the love she gave to her friends, family, and animals alike. Even through everything, she never missed an opportunity for a pontoon ride, campfire, family event, or packer party. She was always looking forward to the next event.

Throughout her life she had many adventures. Living in Arizona and New Mexico for a short time. Traveling to Egypt, Jamaica, Mexico, and countless places in the U.S., distributing her love and joy far and wide. Always keeping an open mind. Though her time was cut short, her spirit will last forever in our hearts, memories and photos.

Bobbi was preceded in death by her father and mother, Bob and Carol (Sagstetter) Grund. She is survived by her son, Adam (Jamie Hinz) Kopetzky, brothers: Thomas (Dee) Grund Sr., and Jim (Micol) Grund, sisters: Patricia (Dave) Van Der Geest, Jean (Ron) Romatoski, and Carrie (Dicky) Heckendorf, and many nieces and nephews.

A special thank you to everyone who helped out, participated, and hosted the benefit at S&S Bar and the Eagles Club pancake breakfast fundraisers. The love and support was greatly felt and appreciated.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022, at 2:00 pm at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill. Rev. Scott Gustafson will officiate. A visitation will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022 from 12:00 pm until the time of service also at the funeral home.

For those unable to attend in person, the service will be live streamed on Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 2:00 pm and will be available for viewing under her obituary on the funeral home website. It will then be posted as a recording for future viewing.

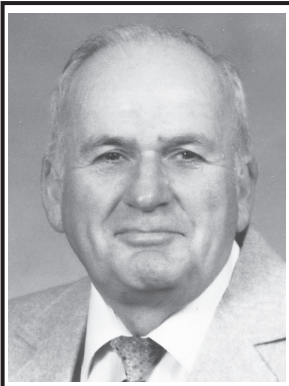
Memorial contributions may be made to the VFW Post 1638 and the Lincoln County Human Society in loving memory of Bobbi.

Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.



Bonnie J. Pergande, age 85, of Antigo, died Sat., Nov. 19, 2022, at Aspirus Langlade Hospital. She was born on Sept. 17, 1937, in Merrill, a daughter of the late Earl and Lila (Hunt) Neuman. She married Paul Pergande on July 23, 1983, at St. John Lutheran Church in Merrill. He preceded her in death on Dec. 17, 2018. She was a graduate of Merrill High School. Bonnie was a Green Bay Packer fan, collected salt and pepper shakers, and enjoyed sightseeing. She was a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Antigo.

Survivors include 3 daughters, Debra (Larry) Bergh, Kathleen Daley, and Susan Daley; 2 sons, Timothy Daley and Steven (Charlotte) Daley all of Merrill; many grandchildren; and a brother, Donald Neuman of Antigo. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a sister, Sandy Gengalo, and a brother, Gary Neuman. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.



Ronald M. Sterr

age 91, of Tomahawk, WI, passed away on Monday, November 21, 2022, at his home. Ron was born in Fond du Lac, WI, on February 7, 1931, to the late Roman and Adelheid (Bartelt) Sterr. He was married to his high school sweetheart, Donna Luedtke, on June 20, 1953; she passed away on April 17, 2022.

Ron was a talented and well-known multiple-sport high school athlete. Upon his graduation, he turned down a minor league contract offer from the New York Yankees to pursue a college education at Ripon College, lettering in football, basketball, and track (they had no baseball team at the time). Ron was president of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity as well as a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He served his country in the United States Army as a Company Commander at Fort Gordon, GA. After his active duty, he stayed in the Reserve Corps. He graduated from Basic Officers Leaders Course, Command and General Staff Officers' Course, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. At times, he served as a Command and General staff instructor where he was sent to instruct at many Army posts. Ron also served as the West Point Liaison Officer for Northern Wisconsin. In 1981, Ron retired from the military as a Lieutenant colonel.

In 1955, he started a teaching career at Merrill Senior High School where he taught history as well as served as an assistant football coach and head baseball coach. Ron led his baseball teams to many successful seasons, winning numerous championships. In 1974, his team finished second in the state championship game. Ron resigned after 20 years of coaching to become the chairman of the high school social studies department. In 1991, he retired after 36 years of teaching, and in 2010, he was inducted into the Merrill Baseball Hall of Fame as an inaugural member.

Ron was a faithful member of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church where he and Donna were joyfully involved with their church family. He was a sports enthusiast and a lifelong Chicago Bears and Cubs fan...1985 was a very good year! Ron was a gifted public speaker, known for interesting antidotes and numerous cartoons and stories and injected a bit of humor into each day. He truly was the family patriarch, always there for advice, practical support, and loving encouragement.

Survivors include his son, Gary (Gwen) Sterr; his daughter, Rhonda Kaplanek; his sister, Gloria Ferguson; and his sister-in-law, Virginia Sterr. He is further survived by his grandchildren, Stephanie Kaplanek, Andy (Lu) Kaplanek, Michael Kaplanek, Joey Kaplanek, Jenna (Jorna) Sterr, and Jamie Sterr; and his great-grandchildren, Kayden, Sofia, and Layla. He was preceded in death by his parents, Roman and Adelheid; his loving wife, Donna; his son, Scott Sterr; his daughter, Terry Jacobs; and his brother, Douglas Sterr.

Memorial services for Ronald Sterr will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2022, at Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church. Rev. Mark Gass will officiate. The family will receive friends for visitation from 12:00 Noon until the time of services at 2:00 PM. Inurnment will be held at Greenwood Cemetery in the spring. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family. You may view Ron's obituary and leave online condolences at generationsfuneral.com.

James O. Johnson, 83, of Merrill, passed away Friday, November 25, 2022, at Woodland Court Elder Services, Merrill. James was born February 3, 1939, in Eau Claire, son of the late Clarence and Georgine (Bergerson) Johnson. He married Darlene R. Stevens on May 2, 1964, in Eau Claire. She survives. After graduating from University of Wisconsin-Madison, James went to work for the Bendix Corp. as a traveling auditor. He and Darlene traveled from the East coast to the West coast and many places in between. After two years in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, he came back to Wausau, Wisconsin and worked for Drott, until they moved, and later came to work in Merrill at the Weinbrenner Shoe Company. James enjoyed basketball, football, and golf. He loved to hunt small and big game animals.

James is survived by his wife, Darlene Johnson; son, Steven (Jodi) Johnson; grandchildren, Christian and Kiley; sisters, Jean (Ron) Holman and Joan Will; brother, Jerry (Mary) Johnson; sister-in-law, Joyce Johnson; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. James was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Georgine Johnson; son, Scott Johnson; brother, John Johnson; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Orville and Ruth Stevens; and brothers-in-law, Charles Will, Harold Stevens, and Lyle Stevens.

A private funeral service for James was held. Burial took place at Restlawn Memorial Park, Wausau. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Vince Alan Zoellner, 55, formerly of Merrill, passed away unexpectedly in Phoenix, AZ, Monday November 14, 2022. Vince was born in the town of Merrill, Lincoln County, on October 30, 1967, to Orville and Rose (Duginski) Zoellner.

Vince was a Merrill High School class of 1986 graduate. He ran track and held class office positions. He was a member of the Marching Jays and the Merrill City Band. Music always played a major role in Vince's life. Starting in grade school, he played drums for Marcus Golde's band Avalanche. In high school, he began playing with Silverado and continued for several years. After college, he was one of the founding members of the band Remedy.

Vince interned for IBM in Wausau, WI. Then, after graduating from college, he worked for Arthur Anderson Accounting Company. Following that, he went on to work for Wausau Insurance.

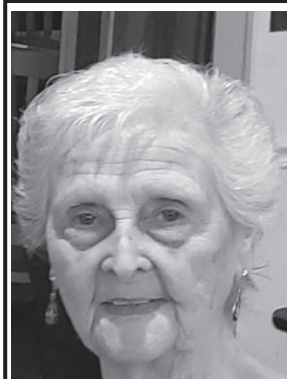
Vince was an avid traveler. He easily made friends in any country he visited. Some favorite places were Japan, Italy, France, Spain, Australia and Brazil, but his heart was most drawn to Costa Rica where he hoped to have permanent residence one day.

During his summer trips to Merrill, Vince enjoyed spending quality time with family. He and his stepfather, Roger, enjoyed "raking" in the bass at their secret fishing hole. Before her passing, he fished with his mother, Rose, as well. Vince especially loved spending time with his nephew and his many nieces. They knew their Uncle Vince was always up for shenanigans and games.

Survivors include his girlfriend Javiera Escobar, sisters, Carrie (Michael) Baumgart, Renee (Douglas) Smith, Colleen (Aaron) Skoviera, and brother, Roger Hoffman Jr., all of Merrill. He is additionally survived by his stepfather, Roger Hoffman Sr., twelve nieces and one nephew, three great nieces and one great nephew, two stepbrothers and four step-sisters.

He was preceded in death by his dear father, Orville Zoellner, and his beloved mother, Rose Hoffman.

Visitation will be held on Friday, December 9, 2022 at Taylor & Stine Funeral Home, beginning at 4PM with the memorial service to follow at 6PM. Taylor & Stine funeral home assisting the family.



Susan Edna (Gilkey) Johnson

age 85, passed away peacefully in her sleep on November 16, 2022, after a long illness. She was born April 15, 1937 in Merrill, Wisconsin to George R. and Edna (Bergman) Gilkey. She married her high school sweetheart and best friend, Erling George Johnson, in June of 1958. Erling preceded her in death in 1999.

Susan is survived by her brother George Gilkey and wife Jane; her three sons and their wives: Richard and Robin Johnson, Randall and Ann Johnson, Robert and Lynne Johnson, her daughter Amy Johnson; her grandchildren: Bethany (Tyler) Fordice, Daniel (Hannah) Johnson, Rachel (Tyler) Cozzo, Ryan Johnson, Thomas (Annie) Scherzer, Alexander (Tiani) Scherzer, and Mackenzie Johnson; and her great grandchildren, Emma Scherzer, James Johnson, and Peter Johnson and many nieces and nephews. Her family always felt privileged to care for her in her final years.

She was preceded in death by her son Erling "Peanut" Neil Johnson, her granddaughter Melissa Johnson, and her sisters Judy Peper, Madge Gilkey, and Barbara Zackert.

Susan was born and raised in Merrill, Wisconsin. She graduated from Merrill High School and attended the Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, IL where she studied to be a medical secretary. Susan dedicated her life to raising her four children and eventually helping raise her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She especially loved her role as Grandma where she was kind and gentle and adored by her family and friends.

Susan left Wisconsin after her marriage and lived in many different locations around the United States but never forgot her Wisconsin roots: she was an avid Green Bay Packer and Wisconsin Badger fan and never missed a game. Her fondest memories were traveling the country after Erling's retirement in their RV visiting family and friends and having adventures.

A memorial service will be on Saturday, December 17, 2022 at the Hope Presbyterian Church, 658 Millbrook Rd, Randolph, NJ. Visitation will be from 10am to 12pm with a service immediately following. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Zach's Foundation at <https://teamzachs.org> or St Jude's Children's Hospital in memory of her nephew Zachary Rummel.

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OBITUARIES



Mae J. Boushley, 97, of Merrill, passed away Wednesday, November 23, 2022, at Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill.

Mae was born February 3, 1925, in Merrill, daughter of the late August and Angela (Zastrow) Heldt. She graduated from Merrill High School in 1941. Mae married Gregory L. Boushley on April 14, 1945, in Merrill. He preceded her in death on March 14, 1981. Greg and Mae owned and operated dairy farms in the Town of Scott and the Town of Pine River. Mae was a homemaker and a farm wife. While Greg

was away at his job with the Lincoln County Highway Department, Mae ran the farm with the help of the children. She would milk cows, plow fields, bail hay, and finish all the other tasks that needed to be done at the farm.

Mae had a strong faith and passed her love for the Lord onto her children. She was an active member of St. John Lutheran Church, where she taught Sunday School, and took part in the Mother's Club, Stewardship Board, Ladies Aid, and several other boards. Mae was an exceptional grandma to her grandchildren.

Mae also worked at the County Market deli, the Carmel Corn shop in the Wausau Center Mall, and helped with the census. Mae spent a lot of time volunteering; she was a 4H club leader for over fifteen years, a master gardener, and helped coordinate many of her 1941 class reunions. Mae enjoyed square dancing, and she loved to travel, always brought back souvenirs for her family.

Mae is survived by her daughters, Lynn Burgener, Lee (Rex) Buchler, Laurel (Neil) Steinagel, Noelle (Chuck) Stine, and Noreen (Doug) Brandt all of Merrill; 14 grandchildren, Brad Byer of Merrill, Burl (Becky) Byer of Merrill, Bret (Stephanie) Byer of Merrill, Brandon Smith (Blair Hubbard) of Merrill, Meredith (John) Heldt of Merrill, Micah Michalski of Puyallup, Washington, Miranda (Kevin) Voss of Houston, Texas, Gabriel (Jessica) Steinagel of Merrill, Justin Stine of Minnetonka, Minnesota, Garrett Stine of Merrill, Jordan (Jenna) Stine of Delafield, Quinn (Payge) Brandt of Japan, Morgan Brandt (Justin Dennison) of Merrill, and Hailey (Matt) Clark of Merrill; 26 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; and many close special friends. Mae was preceded in death by her husband, Gregory Boushley; parents, August and Angela Heldt; son-in-law, Tom Byer; and siblings, Corleen Seefeld Oelke, Ena Reger, Orlen Heldt, August 'Augie' Heldt, and Karl Heldt.

The funeral service for Mae will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, December 2, 2022, at St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill. Rev. David Szeto will officiate. Burial will take place at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2022, from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. and again Friday beginning at 10:00 A.M. all at the church. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

The family suggests memorials in Mae's name be directed to St. John Lutheran Church and/or School in Merrill.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Elaine Erna Florence (Hoeft) Simon, born on December 26, 1929, passed away peacefully at home and on to her eternal glory on Thursday, November 17, 2022. She is the mother of Dean (Joanne) Simon, Diane Simon, Dale (Michelle) Simon and Dan (Becci) Simon.

She is preceded in death by her parents - Alwin "Bill" Hoeft and Eleonore (Hackbarth) Hoeft, her brothers Harold and Richard Hoeft, and her husband Edward Simon.

She is survived by her children and her sister Dorothy Zima. She is also survived by her eight grandchildren - Ian (Lauren) Simon, Lena Simon and her fiancé Kalle Kutschera, Dane Simon, Grace Simon, Audrey Simon, Sarah Shuman, Benjamin Shuman, Jonathan Shuman, and one great grandchild Makari. Additionally, she is survived by sisters-in-law Pat Hoeft, Louise Zahn, Mardell Simon and Marion Simon, many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Elaine graduated from Antigo High School and went on to receive a Business & Accounting degree at Oshkosh Business College. She completed a real estate licensing course and took many technical college courses.

The daughter of a potato grower, she worked at Ormsby Farms for her dad. After business school, she worked for Prudential Insurance Company in Oshkosh and Green Bay as a senior clerk. She worked for Vulcan Corporation in Antigo as a payroll clerk. Later, she worked at Church Mutual, Luebke's Office Supply, Northern Wire, Century 21 and Aspen Realty. She worked as a census enumerator in 1955, 1960, and 2010. She worked as an election polls worker in Langlade, Vilas and Lincoln Counties.

Elaine was a volunteer from early on as a Triple R Riding Club Secretary, then became an assistant leader of the Wislango Riders 4H Club in Antigo. She was a secretary for the North Wisconsin Horsemen's Association. She was her son's Cub Scout leader in Gleason. She was a helper for Friends of the Library, a docent at the Merrill Historical Society, a helper at Merrill Food Pantry and a member of the North Pines Genealogy Group.

She met Edward Simon at a friend's wedding, and they married on May 22, 1954, at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Deerbrook, WI. Her Christian faith was dear, and she was active in Walther League and Ladies Aid now more formally known as Lutheran Women's Missionary League. She traveled to 38 states in her lifetime of 92 years. She was an avid flower grower and vegetable gardener. She enjoyed canning and baking. She was a true horse lover who watched every Triple Crown race and the Olympic Dressage events. She loved reading, genealogy research, entering fair exhibits, stopping at and running her own rummage sales, and working on jigsaw puzzles.

Elaine had survived three early battles with cancer, a bout with Lyme's disease and even a tussle with the alpha strain of Covid. She was called "Iron Woman" by one of her latest doctors when she was diagnosed with cancer once again. Her lust for life will be remembered by everyone who knew her. She will be greatly missed by her family who are waiting for that day when they see her again in heaven.

The funeral service for Elaine was held at 10:00 A.M., Saturday, November 26, 2022, at St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill. Rev. David Szeto officiated. Interment will take place in Town of Summit Cemetery, Langlade County. Visitation was held from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. on Friday, November 25, 2022, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill and after 9:00 A.M. Saturday at church.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Lawrence "Larry" J. Schotz, age 60, of Merrill, WI, passed away on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at his home. Larry was born in Merrill, WI, on February 21, 1962, to the late Lawrence and Helen (Heise) Schotz.

In his younger years, Larry worked various labor jobs which included millwork, painting, and bartending. Most of all, he loved spending time with his niece and nephews and was a positive role model in their growing up. Larry enjoyed socializing with his favorite bartender and many friends at S&S and enjoyed nature, hunting, and gardening, especially tomato plants. Larry was known for his kind and gentle soul and for his charming, witty, and observant personality. He was truly rich in heart and loved by all.

He will be deeply missed by his sister, Charlene "Charlie" (Dale) Venske; his brother, Daniel (Phyllis) Schotz; his niece, Kelly Clark; and his nephews, Seth (Sara) Clark, Brent (Carri) Clark, and Derek Schotz. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Helen.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, at the Snow Hill Cemetery in Merrill, at 11:00 A.M. Rev. Larry Mathein officiated. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family.



Rita Warren, 94, of Phillips, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 24, 2022, at Aspirus Pleasant View Nursing Home in Phillips, WI. She was born to John and Barbara (Stajduhar) Rynar in Park Falls, WI on April 12, 1928.

She was raised in Lugerville and graduated from the Lugerville School. She also attended Phillips High School and Lindblom High School in Chicago after her family moved to Illinois. She moved

back to Lugerville after her marriage to John Krenek May 28, 1959. Together, they farmed in Lugerville until his death on July 4, 1965. During this time, she was the Treasurer of the Town of Flambeau for many years. She then married Earl Warren on April 15, 1967, and they moved to Stillwater, MN. They owned and operated Earl's Cafe for a few years then they moved to Rockford, IL where Rita enjoyed being a homemaker. In 1978, the couple and their son moved to Merrill, WI where she worked at Church Mutual Insurance until her retirement in 1998. She moved back to Phillips in 2019 to be closer to her family. She was an avid reader until she lost her sight, she then switched to books on tape.

She is survived by her son, Robert (Colleen); grandson, Javin; sister, Carole (Tom) Hoge; brother-in-law, Don Loversky; cousin, Thomas (Pat) Vidak, and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her first husband, John Krenek; second husband, Earl Warren; her parents; brothers, Robert and Martin Rynar; and sister, Joanne Loversky.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11 a.m. on Monday, November 28, 2022, at the St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church, 655 S Lake Ave in Phillips, WI 54555. Visitation will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until the start of service. Burial will take place at St. Patrick's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please send donations, in Rita's name to either the Salvation Army, 1333 N Center Ave Merrill, WI 54452, or St Joan of Arc Parish School, 120 Nashotah Road, Nashotah, WI 53058. Heindl-Nimsger Funeral Home is assisting the family.



Faye Ann Semling, 91, of Merrill, WI, went to the Lord peacefully at her home on Tuesday, November 22, 2022.

Faye was born on December 6, 1930, in Shawano, Wisconsin. She was the daughter of the late Joseph (Joe) and Edna (Pete) Rutte. She graduated from Shawano High School in 1948. She attended secretarial school at the Milwaukee Business Institute in 1950.

She met the love of her life John P. (Jack) Semling while they were attending school in Milwaukee. They were married on September 2, 1950, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Leopolis, WI. They were blessed with 57 wonderful years together.

Faye selflessly devoted her life to her seven children and fully supported Jack in his commitment as a business owner. They were a team and when he needed to devote more time to work or travel, she stepped up and covered the responsibilities of caring for the family. She took great pride in cooking homemade meals and Jack often commented that his favorite meals were the ones cooked by her. It was important to Faye to carry on the family traditions that she and Jack had started. She enjoyed family time, especially the treasured memories at the cottages and the condo on Ft Myers Beach with her children and grandchildren. Holidays were always a special time with family - Thanksgiving Feasts, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day dinners, as well as summer cookouts at the cottage. She looked forward each year to a great birthday celebration with the entire extended family!

Faye enjoyed following the athletic and school activities of her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed watching the UWSP Pointers, Packers, Bucks, and Badgers. Faye had a deep love and compassion for animals, especially her cats. She believed strongly in supporting programs that helped give animals a better life.

We will gratefully remember our mom for living her life with perseverance, positivity, and strength which we will carry on in her honor. She will be deeply missed!

Faye was a volunteer with the Good Samaritan Ladies Auxiliary. She volunteered in the Hospital Gift Shop, and she loved to prepare holiday treats for the Holly Tea and St. Francis Christmas Bazaars. Faye was an active member with the Home and School Association and the Ladies Altar Society at St. Francis Xavier Church and School.

Faye is survived by her children, Michael (Merrill) daughter-in-law, Sharon, Wausau, Linda Semling Peterson (Merrill), Robert (Kathy) Plover, Patrick (Merrill), Susan (Dean) Zimmerman, DePere, Julie (Jim) Mootz, Merrill. She is further survived by her 19 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, cousins, and many nieces and nephews. Faye was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Jack, her son, Richard, her brother, Duane Rutte, her sisters-in-law Rosemary Rutte, Marion Lillicrist, June Semling, Virginia (Ginny) Reynolds, and Marie Malm, and her brothers-in-law, James Harding, Donald Semling, Noke Lillicrist, Alan Malm, and John "Red" Reynolds.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers and plants, memorials be sent to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, St. Vincent DePaul, Bell Tower Residence, and the Lincoln County Humane Society.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Merrill. Father Maria, Father Dave Van Massenhove, and Deacon Jim Arndt will preside. Burial will take place at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Merrill. Visitation will be held from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Monday, November 28 at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

NOVEMBER 4, 2022

Girl, Paisley Siarra, born to Jaclyn Kunze and Eric Hopp of Merrill.

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MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is

Thomas McKeen
Son of **Jordan and Erin McKeen**

Thomas is in Kindergarten at Trinity Lutheran, Merrill. He was nominated by Mrs. Rebekah Johnson.

What is your favorite subject in school?
Why?
I like doing soft centers, when we whisper voice and get to play. I like to play with toys.

What is your favorite part of school?
Why?
My favorite part of school is playing outside. I like to play outside, because there's lots of fun things to do.

What would you like to do/become someday?
Why?
Some day I want to be a firefighter, because I want to see how warm their clothes get from the fire. Sometime I practice going down the firepole at our school.

Thomas always puts his best effort into anything he is doing. He works hard in every aspect of his day. He is very polite in the classroom and always works to include his classmates.

- Mrs. Rebekah Johnson

Student of the Week Sponsored by:

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Public Notice

United States of America Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ANR Pipeline Company Docket No. CP23-15-000

TC Energy's ANR Pipeline Company ("ANR") has filed an application before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in Docket No. CP23-15-000. ANR's application proposes the Wisconsin Reliability Project (WRP), a reliability and expansion Project, located in Manitowoc, Marathon, Merril, Oconto, Outagamie, Portage, Sheboygan, Washington, Waupaca, and Winnebago Counties, Wisconsin, and McHenry County, Illinois.

Description of Company:

ANR is a company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business located at 700 Louisiana Street, Suite 1300, Houston, Texas 77002-2700, and is a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of TC Energy Corporation. ANR is authorized to do business in the states of Arkansas, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin. ANR is a "natural-gas company" as defined under the NGA, engaged primarily in the business of transporting natural gas and operating underground storage fields in interstate commerce under authorizations granted by and subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Project's Purpose and Scope:

The proposed Project consists of the replacement of approximately 48 miles of ANR's existing pipeline, with approximately 51 miles of new larger diameter pipeline, located mostly within ANR's existing right-of-way, modifications and replacement of two existing compressor facilities, modifications to six-meter stations and the installation and removal of auxiliary facilities. Upon completion, the Project will upgrade existing pipeline facilities with new, more modern pipeline and compression facilities to provide continued safe and reliable natural gas transportation service to existing customers on ANR's pipeline system. The Project will also provide 144,000 dekatherms per day ("Dth/d") of mainline capacity on ANR's pipeline system that will provide much needed natural gas supply to residential, commercial, and industrial consumers in the states of Wisconsin and Illinois. ANR anticipates commencing construction in 2024 after receipt of all necessary approvals with a target in-service date of November 2025.

Description:

A map indicating the general location of construction associated with the Project is shown. More information on WRP can be found on its Project specific website: www.tcenergy.com/wrp.

For More Information:

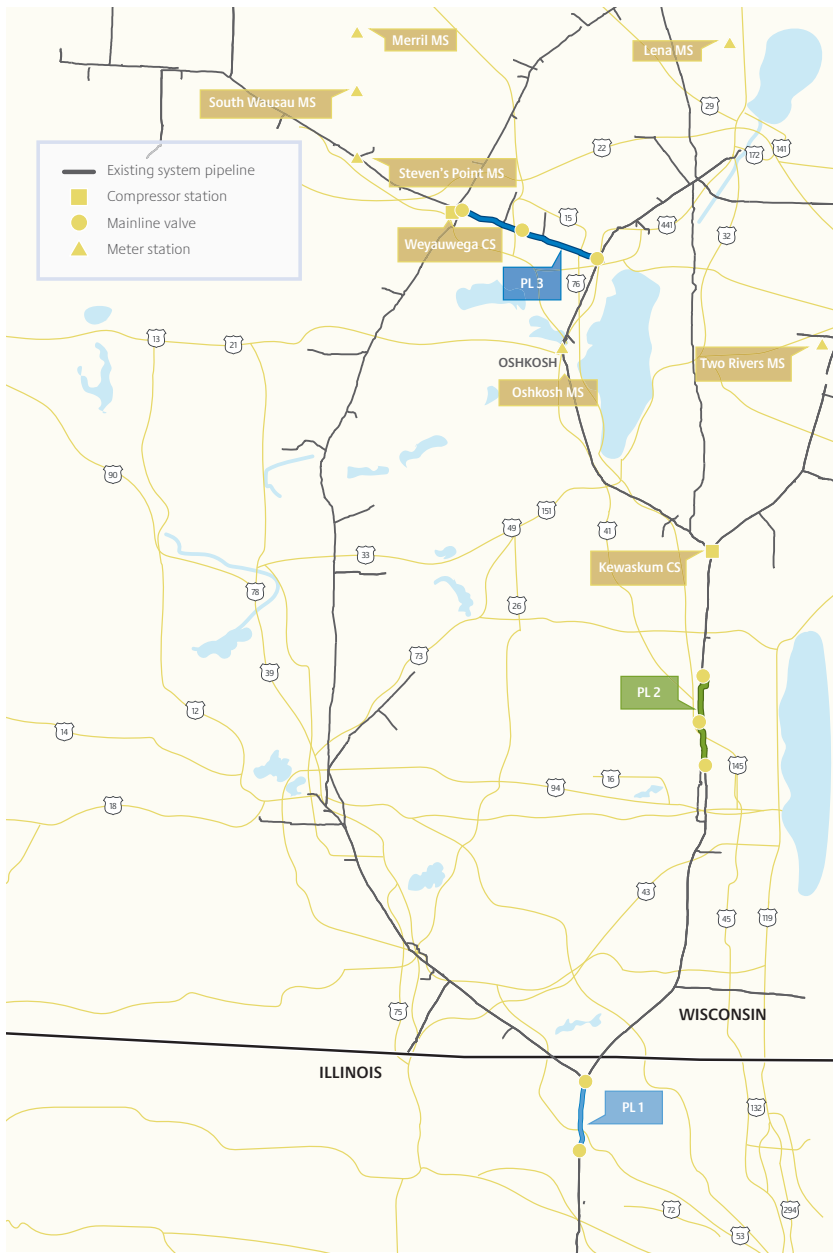
A copy of the application ANR filed with FERC is available at: T B Scott Free Library, Marathon County Public Library, Lena Public Library, Portage County Public Library, Manitowoc Public Library, Oshkosh Public Library, Kewaskum Public Library, Menomonee Falls Public Library, Germantown Community Library, Weyauwega Public Library, Appleton Public Library, and Woodstock Public Library.

The application is also accessible via FERC's website. Go to www.ferc.gov, click on eLibrary (upper right-hand corner of screen) and perform a search using Docket No. CP23-15-000.

A separate copy of FERC's notice of the application specifically stating the date by which timely motions to intervene are due, together with FERC's information sheet about how to intervene in FERC proceedings, will be mailed to affected landowners and government entities shortly after FERC issues a formal notice of ANR's application.

Information about citizen rights under FERC regulations can be found by visiting the FERC website, www.ferc.gov. FERC's information pamphlet, "An Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline on My Land?" is available at <https://www.ferc.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/AnInterstateNaturalGasFacility.WhatYouNeedToKnow.pdf>. The information can also be obtained by calling FERC's office of External Affairs at 866-208-3372.

For more information, interested persons can contact Brittany Brockway, Community Relations and Stakeholder Outreach, Senior Advisor, at Brittany_Brockway@tcenergy.com or call ANR's toll-free number at 877-287-1782.



PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Huddle



DEAR READER,

We all huddle. Huddle, what does that mean? It means we are all in this together. We have to make it work; no matter how hard it is or seems when looking to the future.

Recently I witnessed two people of very distinct orientations coming together in difficult circumstances. It was inspiring, and it caused me to wonder. Can't we put aside our ingrained prejudices and biases, and

teach our children something better for their lives and their children? Can't we give them an example of what the world may be, could possibly be, with us actually acting as the adults and inspirations of goodness in the world? I'd like to think the answer is yes.

PATRICK J. WOOD
PUBLISHER

Author of "Dear Reader" and "Tapestry of Love and Loss"

FIRE from page 1

Wisconsin Public Service, Pine River Fire Department, Corning Fire Department, Russell Fire Department, and City of Wausau Fire Department, along with a General Alarm for off-duty Merrill Firefighters."

"While enroute, an orange glow was noted on the horizon in the area of the reported structure fire. Additionally, a Lincoln County Sheriff Deputy arrived on scene and reported that the fire was beginning to spread to the roof," he said. "Additional resources were requested from Texas Fire Department, Hamburg Fire Department, Hewitt Fire Department, and Town of Wausau Fire Department."

"Tomahawk Ambulance supported response efforts by providing standby coverage in Irma," a report from the LCSO said.

"Due to structural collapse, an excavator was requested to pull the building apart to access hidden hotspots," Kraegenbrink said.

"Additionally, the Lincoln County Highway Department was contacted to salt all the roads being used for water

transport operations," he added. "The Salvation Army was requested for on-scene personnel and provided hydration and nourishment to help support the hours of strenuous work being performed."

"Incident Command declared the fire under control at approximately 12:45 p.m.," Kraegenbrink said. "All mutual aid companies were released from the scene and MFD units were back in service around 2:52 p.m."

"An estimated 211,750 gallons of water and 45 gallons of Class A foam were used to extinguish the fire."

A report from the LCSO said the barn "has been reported as a total loss" and "the origin of the fire is suspected to be related to a Skid-Steer, which had been parked inside the barn."

"During firefighting operations, the property owner and several neighboring farms coordinated the successful removal of the cattle herd from the property," Kraegenbrink said.

However, "While no [human] injuries were reported, 10 calves were reported to have perished in the blaze," the LCSO report said.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

DATE SIGNED: November 11, 2022
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
KENNETH M. ELLENBECKER
DOD: 01/25/2020
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2022 IN 58

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
 2. The decedent, with date of birth 12/25/1982, and date of death 01/25/2020, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1502 River Street, Merrill, WI 54452.
 3. All interested persons waived notice.
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is March 17, 2023.
 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
- Andrew W. Schmidt
SCHMIDT & SCHMIDT, S.C.
PO BOX 146
Wausau, WI 54402-0146
715-845-9621 /Bar #1030985
Published 11/24/22, 12/1/22 & 12/8/22
WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: November 18, 2022
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN

Legals 7700

CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
PATRICIA GARNETT

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2022 IN 59

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
 2. The decedent, with date of birth January 28, 1936, and date of death February 11, 2022, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 2100 E. 6th St., Merrill, WI 54452.
 3. All interested persons waived notice.
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 03-24-2023.
 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main St., Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
- Atty. Miranda M. Lamb
Nolan & Defner Legacy Law
1803 Stewart Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401
715-842-0888 /Bar # 1112872
Published 11/24/22, 12/1/22 & 12/8/22
WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: November 21, 2022
Electronically Signed by
Thomas S. Barker, Clerk of Court

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Amended
Summons and Complaint
Small Claims-Replevin
Case No: 2022SC000308

Legals 7700

Small Claims, Replevin 31003
PARK CITY CREDIT UNION vs.
LINDSAY M HERSHEY

Plaintiff:
PARK CITY CREDIT UNION
501 S PINE RIDGE AVE
Merrill, WI 54452

Defendant:
LINDSAY M HERSHEY
N10799 COUNTY ROAD H
Gleason WI 54435
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, to the said defendant(s):
The plaintiff(s) named above has commenced an action to recover possession of the following property:
If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

SUMMONS

This claim arises under a consumer credit transaction under which you are alleged to be in default, as described in the attached complaint.
IF YOU ARE NOT IN DEFAULT OR HAVE AN OBJECTION TO THE PLAINTIFF'S TAKING THE PROPERTY LISTED ABOVE, YOU MAY ARRANGE FOR A HEARING ON THESE ISSUES BY APPEARING AT THE TIME AND PLACE STATED IN THIS SUMMONS.
IF YOU DO NOT APPEAR AT THAT TIME, JUDGEMENT WILL BE RENDERED AGAINST YOU FOR DELIVERY OF THE PROPERTY TO THE PLAINTIFF.

When to appear/File an Answer
Date: 12-29-2022 Time: 1:00 pm
Place to Appear/File an Answer
Lincoln County Courthouse
1110 E. Main Street, Suite 205
Merrill, WI 54452
Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner
Galen Bayne-Allison
Published December 1 & 8, 2022
WNAXLP

PUBLIC NOTICE: The First Riverside Presbyterian Church in Merrill, WI is declared closed and the corporation dissolved effective August 28, 2022, by the action of its parent body: the Winnebago Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), at its Stated Meeting on September 22, 2022. Any and all parties that have outstanding business related to the First Riverside Presbyterian Church or any unsatisfied claims for resolution are to notify the Winnebago Presbytery before December 21, 2022, at its corporate office located at: 181 E. North Water St., Neenah, WI 54956, Attn: Stated Clerk. (920)886-3598
Published Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2022
WNAXLP

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION
Town of Corning
Election Date April 4th 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the Town of Corning on Tuesday, April 4th, 2023, the following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. All terms are for two years beginning on Tuesday, April 18th, 2023.

Office	Incumbent
Town Board Chairperson	John Kudick
Town Board Supervisor	Jeff Simon
Town Board Supervisor	Todd Luedtke
Town Clerk	Rick Hass
Town Treasurer	Katie Giese

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that a town caucus for the purpose of nominating candidates to appear on the spring election ballot for the above listed offices will be held January 10th 2023 at 7:00 PM. Notice of the scheduled date of the caucus will be posted at least five days before the caucus.

Done in the Town of Corning on
November 18th, 2023

Rick Hass

Support local businesses: Give Merrill Chamber Gift Certificates

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

When you just don't know what to buy that person on your gift list, consider giving a Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce Gift Certificate.

"When you purchase Merrill Chamber Gift Certificates, you're helping to support your local businesses," said Clyde Nelson, Executive Director of the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce. "It's a great opportunity to showcase the unique businesses Merrill has to offer."

Recipients of Merrill Chamber Gift Certificates can use them at any member business in town. "If you want to buy toys at a local toy store, like Johnson's, or get some food or beverages at one of the many dining establishments, the choice is up to you!" Nelson said.

In 2020, the Merrill Chamber sold \$138,416.50 in Gift Certificates, the highest number in the last several years. The



Chamber is hoping they can hit \$140,000 or more in sales again in 2022.

Purchasing and gifting Merrill Chamber Gift Certificates ensures the money will be spent locally, often at small businesses, and helps support Merrill area businesses, the local people who work at and own those local businesses, and their families. It's a win-win.

Gift certificates can be ordered in any amount, however, the Chamber suggests a maximum of \$50 per certificate. Gift

Certificates are good for one year after the date printed on the certificate.

A list of businesses where the certificates can be used is included with each

purchase, and the list can also be found on the Merrill Chamber website: www.MerrillChamber.org. Participating businesses process Merrill Chamber Gift Certificates just like a check and deposit them right into their business bank accounts.

Merrill Chamber Gift Certificates can be purchased at the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce, 705 N. Center Ave. in Merrill, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For larger orders, please provide one day's advance notice for office staff to get them ready and call 715.536.9474 with your request and to arrange for a pick-up time.



One of the homes on the Luminary Tour in 2021.

Submitted photo.

CHRISTMAS from page 1

the O'Tannenbaum Tour will begin at St. Stephens Church in Merrill and will continue on Sunday, as well. [See article on page 3.]

A Very Merrill Christmas Parade

Then at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, the 32nd Annual Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce Very Merrill Christmas Parade will begin, set to delight parade-goers with more than 20 lighted floats with holiday/Christmas themes. And, as is tradition, children will get a peek at Santa Claus at the end of the parade, as he has promised to make an appearance.

Park Manor Luminary and Bell Tower gathering

Following the parade, residents and visitors are invited to take a driving or walking tour to see the 30th Annual Holiday Lights and Luminary. Merrill's Park Manor neighborhood will host the event from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. with lit luminaries providing a magical opportunity for a scenic walk or hayride. The Park Manor neighborhood luminary begins on O'Day Street, goes down Tee Lane Drive, then around on Lark Street, and back through on Divot Street.

After a walking tour or hayride, all are invited to warm up at Bell Tower's Assisi Hall with hot cider, hot chocolate, and cookies, where Santa will greet guests and pose for pictures. The Bell Tower Assisi Hall is accessed through the back parking lot.

Christmas movies will also be shown on a big screen. Free will donations accepted.

"Bring the whole family to enjoy this

holiday tradition!" organizers said. This event is free, but donations are gladly accepted.

"This is my favorite event of the year," area resident Sarah Sturm said of the Luminary. "The magic of the season really comes alive."

"We moved into the neighborhood three years ago and were confused about what all the empty milk jugs in our attic were for!" she said. It didn't take her too long to learn they are used annually for this event. "Our neighbors, the Tlustys, do a great job organizing the event," Sturm said. "It's a real neighborhood collaboration!"

Knights of Columbus Breakfast with St. Nick

The Merrill Knights of Columbus will present their Annual Breakfast with St. Nick in the St. Francis Xavier School cafeteria, 1708 E. 10th St. in Merrill, on Sunday, Dec. 4. Breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, and more will be served, and children can visit with and have their pictures taken with St. Nick at no charge. A free will offering will be accepted, and proceeds will be used to benefit church and school programs at St. Francis and St. John the Baptist.

Christmas Bazaar

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church (on Hwy. 17 in Bloomville) will hold their Christmas Bazaar on Sunday, Dec. 4, as well, with a soup and chili lunch, bake sale, basket raffles, and sweepstakes raffle.

Santa sightings

More holiday events, and more chances for the kids to see Santa are coming in the weeks to come, as well!

CARD from page 1

print, and the Chamber Board votes to select the best submission. [The contest will begin earlier next year to encourage many area artists to submit their work. Watch for details in 2023.]

The prints and cards are perfect to send to family and friends and to give as gifts. Both former and current Merrill residents particularly enjoy them, the Chamber has been told.

In addition to cards featuring this year's winning art, Christmas card va-

riety packs that showcase a variety of the winning artwork from years past are also available for purchase. The cost is \$20.00 for 25 cards with envelopes or \$2.00 each with envelope.

The cost of prints is: \$25.00 for an 8 x 10 print, \$35.00 for a 10 x 13 print, and \$50.00 for a 12 x 18 signed print.

Both prints and Christmas cards depicting the winning artwork can be purchased at the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce, 705 N. Center Ave. in Merrill, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
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Movie Reviews

BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

Devotion

(Now showing in theatres)

★★★★☆

This film is rated PG-13 – for action and peril

On June 25, 1950, the Communist North Korean Army surged across the 38th parallel, starting what is now known as the Korean War. It is also referred to as "America's Forgotten War."

I know about this war through my studies and the fact that a 21-year-old shoe factory employee from Southern Ohio was drafted and chose to enlist in the newly formed United States Air Force and served in Korea with the 38th Fighter Bomber Group. That young man was my father, Paul Stamm.

My father mentioned more than

once in his life, with bitterness, that America had forgotten the 40,000 men who gave their lives in that war.

So with that long preamble, I get to the point. I was very excited to see *Devotion* this weekend. Films about the Korean War are few and very far between, so I went to the cinema with high hopes. I say all this because I was disappointed with this film, and I want to be clear that I suspect my disappointment stems from the film not really being about the Korean War, but rather the film makers using it as a backdrop for the story about friendship and the racism that members of the service who were of color faced during that time.

Devotion is not a bad film, just not what I was expecting. While some of the story does take place during the Korean War, the vast majority is about the relationship between two pilots-wingmen to the end-who form a friendship that has lasted through their families to this day.



Devotion is well worth seeing. Just be aware that the trailers present it as a film about the Korean War, but the reality is that it's a film about friendship and racism.

The only other complaint I have is that it's a tad overlong at two hours nineteen minutes. But overall I give it three out of five stars—two for the story and the performances, and one for the beautifully shot flying sequences.

PARKING from page 2

exclusions apply re: Merrill Municipal Ord 36-85)

Winter night parking restrictions:

It shall be unlawful for any person to park any vehicle on any City Street or traveled right-of-way from Dec. 1 to Mar. 31, inclusive, between the hours of 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Parking prohibited during or after snow storm:

No person shall park any motor vehicle or other apparatus upon any street within the City, during a declared snow emergency, until the snow has been removed to the curb or curb line of such street. Snow emergencies may be declared by the Mayor, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Street Superintendent, or Police Chief when snowfall of two (2) or more inches has or is predicted to occur.

Removal of vehicles:

Any vehicle parked on any street

or right-of-way in violation of this Section and in such a manner as to obstruct removal of snow from the street or right-of-way may be removed or caused to be removed to the Street Department facilities or other facilities designated by the Chief of Police or Public Works Director/City Engineer, or Street Superintendent, and the vehicle may not be recovered until the towing, any storage charges, and parking forfeitures as imposed by this Chapter, are paid.

FFA MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Jackson Whited, a Freshman at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named FFA Member of the Month for November 2022. Jackson joined FFA this year and likes it so far. He has helped out a lot with volunteering at Grandpa's Farm and also helped with the FFA Homecoming float for the parade.

"I used to help a couple family friends with their farm just tending to animals," Jackson said. That led to his interest in FFA.

In addition to FFA, Jackson is involved in Track, and in his free time, he enjoys spending time with family, particularly outdoors and just talking about anything and everything.

Jackson is the son of Montique and William Whited, and he said he hopes to be a bio engineer one day.



Jackson Whited



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- SUNDAY: Bar Open From 11am-7pm

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Additional Duties:

1. Assist with and respond to injuries and illnesses and render first-aid as needed.
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3. Assist with other duties as assigned by EHS Manager.

Minimum Work Experience Required:

1. Three years' experience in an Occupational Safety related field.

Minimum Education and Knowledge Required:

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Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request).

There are none that can withstand your power O Mary, conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times).

Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands (three times)

Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you.

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Position salary range is \$22.46 - \$28.89 plus certification pay with competitive benefit package.

Completed applications, with resume, will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. Friday January 6, 2023.

The complete job description and the required City Application form may be obtained from the Merrill City Clerk's Office at 1004 E First Street, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452, telephone (715) 536-5594, or downloaded from <http://www.ci.merrill.wi.us/>. Merrill is an equal opportunity employer.

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HIGHLIGHTS: '21 JD 9570RX track tractor, 264 hrs.; '22 JD 8R 370 MFWD tractor, 145 hrs.; '18 JD 8345R MFWD tractor, 1,190 hrs.; '18 JD 8345R MFWD tractor, 908 hrs.; '16 JD 6175R MFWD tractor, 1,868 hrs.; '16 JD 6175R MFWD tractor, 1,569 hrs.; '16 JD 6175R MFWD tractor, 1,563 hrs.; '09 JD 6430 Premium MFWD tractor, 1,009 hrs.; '22 JD 5780 4wd combine on tracks, 43 eng./15 sep. hrs.; '22 JD C12F 12 row 30" folding corn head; '22 JD RD45F 45' flex draper head; MD Stud King 42" head trailer; '22 JD 410R self-propelled sprayer, 183 hrs.; '21 Behnke 48" step deck sprayer trailer; '19 JD 1775NT 16 row 30" CCS planter; Sunflower 9433 40' grain drill; ADS 2-box seed tender; '12 J&M 750 grain cart; Degelman Pro-Till 33" high speed disc; Sunflower 5035 30" field cultivator; Sunflower 4213 13-shank disc-chisel; Brillion WFP28 28" single-roller packer; Brillion WFP32 32" single-roller packer; Case-IH 4300 46' field cultivator; Case-IH 4800 26' field cultivator; Schulte RS320 rock picker; Schulte SRW1400 rock rake; '13 New Holland BB330 large square baler; '18 JD 560M round baler w/JD A520R accumulator; '15 New Holland RB560 round baler; Kuhn GA7932 2-basket rotary hay rake; Massey Ferguson TD524 4-basket hay tedder; '16 Anderson Hybrid X-Tractor inline bale wrapper; (2) Slater Welding bale processor; Gandy Orbit-Air 3-pt. seeder, 30' boom; '04 Sterling L9500 dry tender truck, 854,878 miles; '11 International ProStar Premium day cab semi, 436,053 miles; '08 International ProStar Eagle day cab semi, 722,055 miles; '00 Volvo day cab semi, 770,905 miles; '10 Ram 3500HD 4wd dump truck, 89,440 miles; (5) Timpette hopper bottom grain trailers; 1985 Walker 6,000 gal. S.S. tanker trailer; 1985 Raven 38' aluminum frameless dump trailer; 1995 Fontaine 48' steel step deck trailer; 30' flatbed tender trailer, (2) 2,000 gal. poly tanks w/pump
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EMU Bluejacks Varsity Hockey scores a win against Chequamegon/Phillips/Butternut @ the MARC

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

East Merrill Newman United (EMU) Bluejacks Varsity Hockey Team kicked off their season with a non-conference game at the Merrill Area Recreation Complex (MARC) against the Chequamegon/Phillips/Butternut Varsity Hockey Team on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022. The Bluejacks were on fire in the first period, scoring five points, the first of which was less than 90 seconds into the game, scored by #26 Sergei Wunsch with an assist from #6 Parker Klebenow.

#6 Klebenow then scored the next point for the Bluejacks with an assist from #18 Kaeden Grusnick and #26 Wunsch. #23 Nick Townsend scored with an assist from #4 Owen Reeves, and then #17 Zach Pagel scored a goal with an assist from #6 Klebenow and scored a second time just 24 seconds later, unassisted.

Chequamegon was still scoreless going into the second period.

See **HOCKEY** page 20

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2022-23 WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

HEAD COACH: Michael De Buhr, second year

ASSISTANT COACHES: Garrett Stine, third year; Dawn Leland, third year; Morgan Wilde, fourth year; Patience Pyan, third year; and Linda Peterson, seventh year

HEAD MANGER: Kate Knott, 27th year

ASSISTANT MANAGER: Robin Schmidt, first year

2021 RECORD: 4-20 (1-11 in Wisconsin Valley Conference)

2021 POST SEASON RESULTS: Lost 37-52 at Medford

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: Alayna Pozorski - Honorable Mention

KEY RETURNERS: Seniors Alayna Pozorski, Maddie Drew, and Prayla Pyan; and Juniors Mia Ott, Maddy Ott, and Sophie Wendorf

KEY LOSSES: Laney Zuelsdorff, Brenna Steinagel, and Monica Lane

KEY NEWCOMERS: Senior Addy Schmeltzer; Sophomores Lily Dallman, Ava Detert, MacKenzieEllenbecker, and Haley Rindt; and Freshman Kaela Clerveaux

2021 RECAP: Last year we struggled in conference and out of conference; only two games all seasons were in single digits. The win at home vs. Wausau East is a game I will always remember. 63-58 win was an exciting game and one I am not sure a lot of people thought we would win.

2022 OUTLOOK: We are a much-improved team from last year. We return 70% of our scoring from a season ago. We have a non-conference schedule; we can be very competitive. We will be led by four Seniors: Alayna Pozorski

GIRLS BASKETBALL



Varsity Team. Front L to R: Lily Dallman, Ava Detert, Alayna Pozorski, Maddy Ott, and MacKenzie Ellenbecker. Back L to R: Kaela Clerveaux, Maddie Drew, Addy Schmeltzer, Prayla Pyan, Sophie Wendorf, Mia Ott, and Haley Rindt. **Katie Hanson photos.**

See **VOLLEYBALL** page 12



JV1 Team. Front L to R: Farije Kiskoski, Ava Detert, and Takiyah Sell. Back L to R: GraceLee Gentile-Hull, Brenna Jirovec, Kaela Clerveaux, Lily Dallman, Haley Rindt, and MacKenzie Ellenbecker.



JV2 Team. Front L to R: Sarah Hegemeister, Taylor Slais, Peyton Kucirek, Madi Sell, and Mariah Huice. Back L to R: Mazzi Gaedtker, Brenna Jirovec, Miah Graap, Destiny Trevino, Takiyah Sell, and Coach Morgan Wilde. Missing from photo: Merin Yates.

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2022-23 WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW



BOYS BASKETBALL



Front L to R: Carson Woellner (Junior), Carter Baade (Junior), Jaden Bush (Junior), Ondre Houghton (Junior), Kory Page (Sophomore), and Braiden Voigt (Junior). Back L to R: Troy Mootz (Senior), James Watts (Senior), Johnny Handlin (Senior), Tyson Glisch (Senior), Bradyn Pieper (Senior), and Croix Woller (Senior). Missing from photo: EJ Weix (Sophomore).

Submitted photo.

HEAD COACH: Troy Pieper, third year at Merrill/seventh season overall as Varsity Coach

ASSISTANT COACHES: Mitchell Osness (Varsity Assistant), Lisa Handlin (JV Coach), Jim Brogan (JV Coach), Don Kalinowski (JV2/3 Coach), and Steven Lewandowski (JV2/3 Coach).

2021 RECORD: 12-15

2021 POST SEASON RESULTS: 2-1 lost in the Regional Championship to Rhinelander

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: Bradyn Pieper and Troy Mootz (both Honorable Mention)

KEY RETURNERS: Seniors Bradyn Pieper, Troy Mootz, Tyson Glisch, Croix Woller, and Johnny Handlin; Juniors Carter Baade and Sam Reimann

KEY LOSSES: Bailey Turenne, Cayden Diels, Cory Gigl, Michael McRae, and Jordan Bush

KEY NEWCOMERS: Senior James Watts; Juniors Braiden Voigt, Jaden Bush, and Carson Woellner; and Sophomores EJ Weix and Kory Page

2021 RECAP: It was a fun ride last year. While it didn't end the way we envisioned with the loss to Rhinelander in the Regional Championship, it was still a very memorable season. The win in the Regional Semi's was one of the best atmospheres and games I've been part of. Knocking off Mosinee, who was the two seed and only had two losses all season, was a very memorable game. We started to gel at the right time, winning four straight, before ending our season at Rhinelander. We had a great group of Senior leaders that helped create a winning culture. They will be missed for sure.

2022 OUTLOOK: This is the deepest roster I've had in the three years I've been coach here. I'm excited to see what we can do. We have two returning All Valley Players in Pieper and Mootz; not many teams can say they have two All Conference players returning. Both players had fantastic Junior years, and we will lean on them to be our leaders this year. Tyson Glisch, who gained confidence as the season progressed last year and played big minutes down the stretch last season, will be counted on to take on a much bigger role this year, and he's ready for the challenge. I've really liked what I've seen out of our other Seniors as well. Johnny Handlin and Croix Woller will contribute a lot this year, and James Watts will bring energy off the bench.

Our depth and balance will be the key to our success this season. We have some talented underclassmen to go with the Seniors mentioned above. Two Sophomores who have impressed are Kory Page and EJ Weix. Both are great athletes who are not

scared of the big stage; I'm really excited to see them grow as the season plays out. We also have a very deep and balanced Junior group, as well. They are a group that brings energy every day, competes every day, and are willing to battle with anyone. Carter Baade is one of those Juniors who will be asked to fill a starting role this year and take on a bigger role, and I'm expecting him to make the most of the opportunity. I've really been impressed with how Braiden Voigt and Jaden Bush have competed in practice so far; I think they will be ready to contribute when called on. Carson Woellner is constant energy. We will use his energy and effort off the bench this year, and he will be ready to make the most of the minutes he gets. As far as who are the favorites in the Wisconsin Valley Conference, I think Everest and Marshfield are probably the favorites; however, I think this might be one of the most competitive seasons in the Valley. There are a lot of really solid teams; each night will be a battle. No easy wins this year. I look forward to seeing what we can do and where we end up. We will be fun to watch; we will bring it every night. We preach "Energy, Effort, and Execute," and this team this year could make some noise when they bring the "3 E's" and play together.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: Please come out and watch us play; we will entertain you, I can promise that. Night in and night out we will compete. From what I've seen after a couple weeks of practice, we will be a deep and balanced team that will not back down from anyone. It's going to be a fun season. Come out and support the guys and BE LOUD! #EnergyEffortExecute #BluejayPride

VOLLEYBALL from page 8

and Maddie Drew both started many games last year and have grown so much; Prayla Pyan (who was out with ACL injury last year); and Addy Schmeltzer who did not play basketball last year). These four are excited and have played a lot of basketball together, and hopefully we can send them out on a high note! Three Juniors-Sophie Wendorf and twins Maddy and Mia Ott-provide Varsity experience, and their growth together has been so impressive and will be counted for huge minutes this season.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: Excited! Grateful to be back for a second season. We have

improved and grown as players and people so much together. We have been through so much together and grown closer and better along the way. We have a non-conference schedule that set us up for a possible playoff run. Our conference is loaded, with Wausau West, Marshfield, and Stevens Point returning many of their core players from last year. A fourth place finish in the Wisconsin Valley Conference would be awesome and is possible!

VARSITY TEAM ROSTER: Maddie Drew, Maddy Ott, Alayna Pozorski, Lily Dallman, Sophie Wendorf, Mia Ott, Ava Detert, MacKenzie Ellenbecker, Haley Rindt, Kaela Clerveaux, Prayla Pyan, and Addy Schmeltzer

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2022-23 WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

HOCKEY

HEAD COACH: Nathan Pagel, 17th year

ASSISTANT COACHES: Greg Glovinski, 2nd year; Kyle Swan, 12th year; Chris Trantow, 20th year; Josh Mcclouth, 1st year

2021 RECORD: 3-21

2021 POST SEASON RESULTS: Lost to Wausau West 12-0 in round 1.

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: None

KEY RETURNERS: Andrew Franken (Junior Defenseman), Kaden Grusnick (Senior Defenseman), Roman Wunsch (Junior Defenseman), Sergei Wunsch (Junior Forward), Conner McCorkle (Junior Defenseman), Zach Pagel (Sophomore Forward), Trent Pozorski (Senior Forward), Jake Furrer (Senior Goalie), Nick Bodner (Sophomore Forward), Parker Klebenow (Sophomore Forward), Brody Trantow (Sophomore Forward), Sam Holzinger (Senior Forward), and Vincent Newman-Knuckles (Junior Forward).

KEY LOSSES: Eli Pagel and Colton Betro

KEY NEWCOMERS: Wyatt Rusch (Freshman Defenseman), Landon Thurs (Freshman Forward), Landon Bennett (Freshman Forward), Alex Petrowski (Freshman Forward), and Dalton Kania (Freshman Forward)

2021 RECAP: Last season brought new experiences and hopefully set a building block for the next few years. We were able to grow closer as a team and are trying to put all the pieces of the puzzle together. Although the record didn't show it, this team showed heart and effort each time they hit the ice. We were a young team in 2021 with only graduating two Seniors. We play in a tough Wisconsin Valley Conference, and our young guys were able to see the speed and level of play of Varsity Hockey. We will miss our Senior Captains, Eli Pagel and Colton Betro. They were leaders on and off the ice and were key contributors to the team. We had a hot start to last season after a 5-1 win



The EM United BlueJacks High School Boys Hockey Team, comprised of players from Wausau East, Newman, and Merrill High Schools. **Nathan Porath photo.**

against Shawano in the opening game of 2021. After that, we couldn't find a win until February. We ended the regular season on a high note by winning back-to-back games. Although we are a young team, we will always strive to find a way and never give up on ourselves or the team.

2022 OUTLOOK: This year we are hoping to take things to the next level. It will be important to start right where we left off last year and keep building up the momentum. Some of the boys are looking bigger and stronger and have definitely been working on skills during the off-season, which is great to see. In order for us to be successful this season, we need to come together as a team and be able to face adversity. We need to rely on one another in order to get the job done. We play in a very tough Wisconsin Valley Conference, and there is never an easy game. It is a very fast-paced game with each opponent from the Valley. If we stick to our gameplan, we might be able to surprise a couple teams with this group this year. Hopefully our Captains will be able to lead our team and be the backbone we need them to be.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: I am really looking forward to seeing the growth that will occur over this

season. This group of players have shown a desire to improve each practice, and they have big goals for the season that they want to achieve. There are also some great events planned, youth nights, veteran appreciation, parents' night, and Senior night. I would also like to thank all the sponsors that have helped our team out with the golf outing, custom made mouth guards, and our fan t-shirt giveaways. To quote the great Badger Coach Bob Johnson, "It's a great day for Hockey."

TEAM ROSTER: Jake Furrer, Captain (Wausau East), Brody Benedict (Merrill), Andrew Franken (Wausau East), Owen Reeves (Newman), Landon Bennett (Wausau East), Parker Klebenow (Merrill), Roman Wunsch (Merrill), Connor McCorkle, Captain (Merrill), Wyatt Rusch (Wausau East), Brody Trantow (Wausau East), Isaac Kaczmarowski (Wausau East), Sam Holzinger, Captain (Merrill), Sergei Wunsch (Merrill), Zach Pagel, Captain (Wausau East), Kaeden Grusnick (Wausau East), Alex Petrowski (Merrill), Dalton Kania (Wausau East), Nick Townsend (Wausau East), Vincent Newman-Knuckles (Wausau East), Nick Bodner (Wausau East), Trent Pozorski (Merrill), Landon Thurs (Wausau East), Truman Shull (Merrill), Connor Burton (Wausau East), and Chase Klebenow (Merrill).

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2022-23 WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW



WRESTLING



Front L to R: Erica Arneson, Brady Norton, Dustin Schmirler, Mason Johnson, Allison Hunter, Brody Roche, Brett Suchocki, Noah Clifford, Bridget Steinagel, and Janna Jacobson. Middle L to R: Cole Schoerner, Ryan Coates, Jon Hart, Joey Jensen, Callum Wheeler, Ian Dreikosen, Mason Bloch, Evan Fredericks, Preston Schielke, and Carson Hartenstein. Back L to R: Mikal Plautz, Jace Olson, Brian Ball, Ryder Depies, Hunter Opper, Austin Depies, Joshua Gustum, Josh Henderson, Carson Brooks, and Caden Parham-Stevenson. Missing from photo: Noah Klug and Jayden Chase.

Submitted photo.

HEAD COACH: Brian Suchocki, 24th year with the Merrill Wrestling Program, 8th year as Head Coach

ASSISTANT COACHES: Carey Mullenberg, 9 years; Ben Natzke, 14 years; Tanner Depies, 1st year; and Isaac Buntrock, 2nd year

2021-22 RECORD: 7-11 overall record and 5th place in the conference, 2-4 Conference Record

2022 POST SEASON: Callum Wheeler, Wyatt Bathke, and Ryder Depies

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: Wyatt Bathke second year and Ryder Depies first year

KEY RETURNERS: Weights from 2021-22 Seniors- Brian Ball, Ryder Depies and Ian Dreikosen; Juniors- Allison Hunter, Mikal Plautz, Bridget Steinagel, and Jon Hart; Sophomores- Austin Depies, Callum Wheeler, Carson Brooks, Brady Norton, Joey Jensen, and Evan Frederick

KEY LOSSES: Wyatt Bathke, Jordan Smukowski, Brindelyn Eternicka, Kieran Hehling, and Dominic Roper

KEY NEWCOMERS: Dusty Schmirler, Carson Hartenstein, Brett Suchocki, Jayden Chase, Jace Olson, Hunter Opper, Josh Gustum, Noah Klug, Mason Bloch, Ryan Coates, Josh Henderson, Caden Parham-Stevenson, Preston Schuelke, Mason Johnson, Noah Clifford, Malakai Wheeler, Cole Schoerner, and Brody Roche.

2021-22 RECAP: During the 2021-22 season, we qualified three Merrill wrestlers for the Sectional Tournament. Callum Wheeler, Wyatt Bathke, and Ryder Depies qualified for Sectionals. Ryder Depies moved on to the State Tournament. Ryder Depies advancing to State Tournament was a great accomplishment, and now having him with that experience will help him with his future goals. We also had some extremely exciting duals in conference. Although we gave up several weight

classes and had a young team, we were able to push DC Everest (DCE) to a one-point dual and later get a win over SPASH by one point. These duals were at the end of the season and showed as growth throughout the season. The fact that our team was overall very young and we had some growing pains was something we worked to overcome. We also had some illness and injury in the middle of the season that really hampered our progress. However, the wrestlers regrouped and made a good push towards the end of the season.

2022-23 OUTLOOK: We have some experienced upperclassmen that are ready to make their mark. Many of them will be looking to accomplish their own personal goals. Brian Ball and Ryder Depies will be four-year Varsity wrestlers and will provide great leadership to a young team. We have some wrestlers that need to make the next step, and we have a lot of new wrestlers. The majority of our team is made up of Freshmen and Sophomores. We need to continue building sound basics and concentrate on improvement. We need to control things that matter like conditioning, technique, and preparing each and every day for competition. We have some Juniors and a couple Seniors that have been around for a while. They lead by their work ethic, and now it's their opportunity to show what they can do. As usual, the Wisconsin Valley Conference and our particular Sectional will be very challenging. We will need everyone competing at a high level to perform well. We have three home duals this year. The home duals are against Wausau West, Stevens Point, and DCE. Each dual will be tough and should be some good individual matches.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: All the coaches and wrestlers are looking forward to a new challenge. We want to put our stamp on the season. We have a few Seniors with experience and some nice underclassmen that will compete hard, and we have some exciting wrestlers looking to accomplish some goals they have set for themselves. Even though we have some adversity to overcome, we will do our best. We will represent Merrill Wrestling with class.

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2022-23 WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

DANCE TEAM

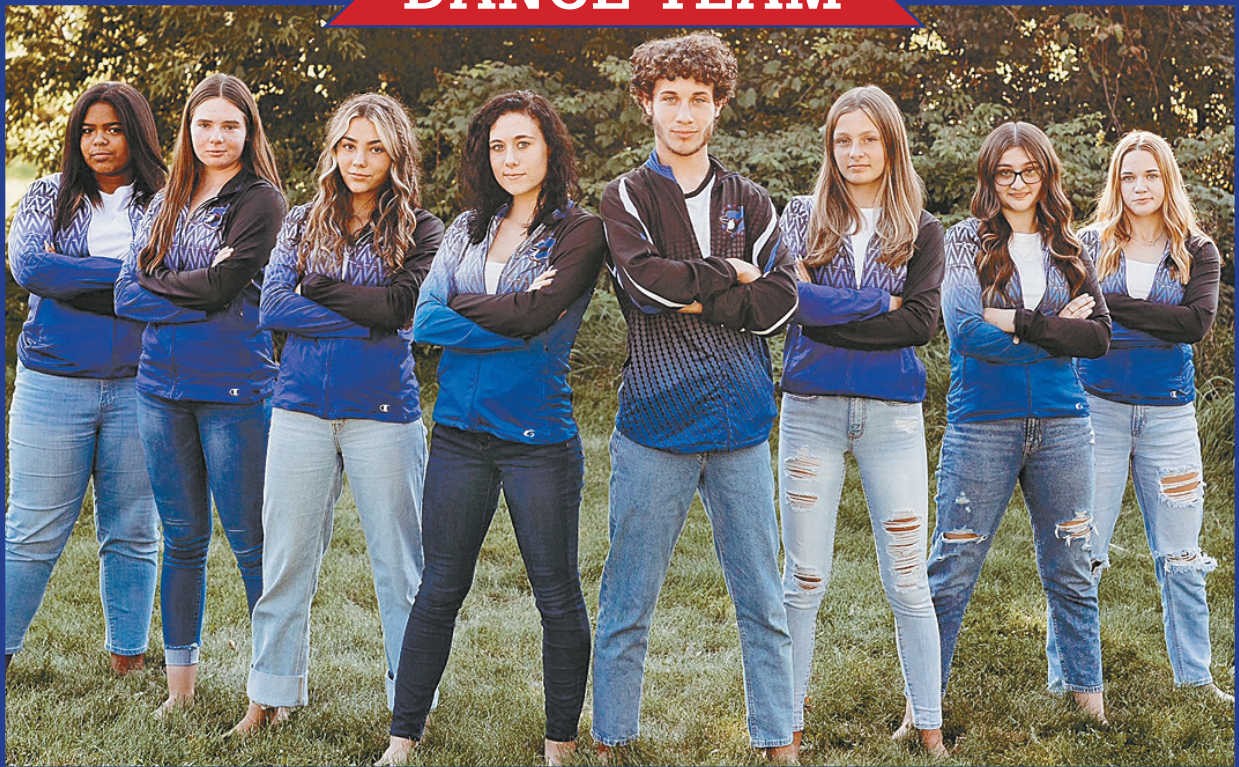
HEAD COACH: Cassie Lezotte, third year

ASSISTANT COACHES: Sydney Roberts, third year

2021 POST SEASON RESULTS: Second in Division 2 HipHop at WACPC western Regionals. Sixth place at WACPC State in Division 2 HipHop.

KEY RETURNERS: Alex Schulz and Conor Sayles

2021 RECAP: The beginning of last year was hard. We ended up losing some dancers. The first competition was hard, because our whole team had never been to a school dance team competition before, since the year before that was the COVID year where we could not watch other teams. After that first competition, the team was more determined than ever to do bring home some hardware. We made it to State in Division 2 HipHop, and we took sixth place. We were around three points from taking fifth place, which comes home with a trophy. We ended up beating over half of the teams that had beat us at other competitions, which was a great end to the season for us.



L to R: Mylee Sykes, Liberty Fuchs, Adison Clark, Alex Schulz, Conor Sayles, Madison Prentice, Molly White, and Reggie Lahti. Stacy Literski photo.

2022 OUTLOOK: This season our goal is to place at State in HipHop and go to State in Jazz which, with this team, is 100% possible. We have stepped up our tricks this year in HipHop. We have the whole team doing tricks which we have never had before. Our Freshmen got their headsprings and kip-ups, which is amazing, for none of them doing it before. Conor got his roundoff back tuck. In Jazz, we have added more jumps and turns than before. We do need to work on our technique in Jazz, but we see the improvement and the hard work they are putting in.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: Our Regionals will be at D.C. Everest on January 28. We would love for the community to come out and support the Dance team. We would love to see students and parents in the roped-off section at Regionals during our performance!

GO TEAM!



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Merrill Girls Basketball Team starts off strong, but needs to focus on rebounding

PATIENCE PYAN AND TINA L. SCOTT

The Merrill Girls Varsity Basketball Team traveled to Shawano on Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022, for a non-conference match up and their second game of the season. The Lady Bluejays played the Shawano Community High School Hawks and came away with a win (64-51), bringing them to 2-0 at the end of their first week of competitive play.

The score went back and forth for the first couple minutes, which is the only time the Bluejays trailed the whole game. The Merrill Girls were losing 2-8 early on, but went on a 16-2 run to lead 18-10 and get back on top. Merrill was in control for the majority of the game, leading by as much as 13 points. The score was only tied once early on in the second half at 31-31, but other than that, Merrill was ahead the whole time and held on to that lead for the win.

“Our Defense kept us in the game when shots weren’t falling. Time and time again the girls stepped up with a stop on critical possessions. One example: We were up 55-51 with 2:30 to go, Maddie Drew tipped the ball, and Alayna Pozorski got on the floor and stole the ball. On the offensive end, after that play, Mia Ott found Addy Schmeltzer under the hoop for a short bank shot. That put us up six and sealed the game!”

The Bluejays were led by Junior Mia Ott (23 pts, 3 stl, 3 ast) who had 23 points and Senior Alayna Pozorski (16 pts, 8 reb, 5 ast) who put up 16.

**Box Score
Merrill 64 @ Shawano 51**

On Tuesday, Nov. 22, the Bluejays made the drive from Merrill to Medford for a non-conference match up with the Red Raiders where the



Mia Ott drives past her defender to score 2 of her 26 points in the Nov. 22 game against Medford.



Sophie Wendorf (2 pts, 6 reb, 1 stl) shoots one of her two made free throws in the game against Medford.

Patience Pyan photos.

Bluejays led the whole game, never trailing once. The Red Raiders got it within three points in the first half and three in the second half but never were on top. Merrill struggled a little offensively, considering Medford had a better overall field goal percentage, 2FG percentage, and 3FG percentage, but the Bluejays’ defense was too much, yet again forcing 27 turnovers by the Raiders.

Medford also had 22 personal fouls, which sent Merrill to the free-throw line quite a bit, and the Bluejays shot 24/34 from the free-throw line.

The Bluejays’ defense continues to keep them in games and get critical stops when needed. Merrill ended up on top, winning 62-42, led by Mia Ott (26 pts, 7 reb, 6 stl) who had 26 points, Alayna Pozorski (13 pts, 7 reb, 5 ast) who had 13, and Maddy Ott (8 pts, 6 reb, 3 stl) who had 8.

The Merrill Girls left Medford on a high note, so far undefeated in their season with a 3-0 streak.

**Box Score
Merrill 62 @ Medford 42**

Over Thanksgiving break, the Merrill Girls were again on the move, this time heading to Assumption for the Cranberry Classic on Nov. 25 and 26, with one game scheduled each day.

The Merrill Girls played the Columbus Catholic High School Girls on Friday, Nov. 25, with Merrill trailing the majority of the game, only leading a couple times at the beginning of the game 4-0 and 6-4. The Bluejays’ stats were less than Columbus Catholic in just about every category, including getting out rebounded 45-33 and having a much lower field goal percentage.

Although Merrill struggled, there were a few posi-

tives. The Merrill Girls had more steals, fewer turnovers, and even took a couple charges. The Bluejays were led by Mia Ott who had 19 pts and Alayna Pozorski who had 9 pts, but lost the game 39-50.

**Box Score
Merrill 39 @ Columbus Catholic 50**

The next day, on Saturday, Nov. 26, the Merrill Bluejays took on the Laona/Wabeno Rebels. Merrill led for most of the first half, trailing for a tiny stretch by as much as five points. The Bluejays led going into halftime 23-16 and maintained the lead up until about halfway through the second half, and that’s when they fell apart and couldn’t get back on top.

The Jays were also out rebounded 42-33. Getting out rebounded continues to be a problem for the Merrill Girls.

Led by Mia Ott who had 21 pts, Sophie Wendorf who had 7 pts, and Alayna Pozorski with 6 pts, Merrill lost the game 43-49.

The Merrill Girls are now 3-2 for the season.

Box Score: Merrill 43 @ Laona/Wabeno 49

HOCKEY from page 14

The Blackjacks picked up another five points in the second period, with #12 Brody Trantow (assist by #18 Grusnick), #17 Pagel (assist by #3 Andrew Franken), #4 Reeves (assist by #27 Nick Bodner and #23 Townsend), #26 Wunsch (unassisted), and #5 Landon Bennett (assist by #18 Grusnick) all scoring for the EMU Team.

Late in the second period, Chequamegon got on the board with a point scored by their #5 (assist by their #13).

In the third period, the Bluejacks’ #18 Grusnick scored with an assist from #17 Pagel and #3 Franken at 5:13. Then the two teams battled it out until Chequamegon got another point on the board nearly 12 minutes into the third period, unassisted, by their #10.

The Bluejacks landed the final score of the game at 16:45, with #6 Klebenow making that goal with an assist from #26 Wunsch, bringing the final score to 12-2 for an EMU Bluejacks win.

During the game, the Bluejacks picked up two penalties for interference, one in each of the first two periods, while Chequamegon was also called on two penalties for tripping, one in the first period and the other in the third.

Jake Furrer, Goalie for the Bluejacks, made a total of 14 saves in the game, with 7 in the first period, 5 in the second, and 2 in the last.

Chequamegon’s Goalie racked up even more saves—35 in all—a testimony to the Bluejacks driving offense that, without the benefit of the skills of Chequamegon’s Goalie, would have resulted in even more Bluejacks goals.

Highlights of the game: “Bluejacks Zach Pagel, Kaden Grusnick, and Sergei Wunsch led the way with a four-point night,” Assistant Coach Greg Glovinski said. “Parker Klebenow also had a three-point night.”

And “Landon Bennett scored his first Varsity goal,” he added.

**Box Score:
Chequamegon 2 @ East Merrill Newman United 12**

2022-2023 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedules

Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV, and JV2)

Thurs. Dec. 1	Mosinee (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Thurs. Dec. 1	Mosinee (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Sat. Dec. 3	La Crescent-Hokah (Varsity)	Away	4:10 pm

Girls Basketball (Varsity & JV)

Fri. Dec. 2	Rhineland (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Fri. Dec. 2	Rhineland (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Sat. Dec. 3	Ellsworth Community (Varsity)	Away	2:30 pm
Tues. Dec. 6	Marshfield (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Tues. Dec. 6	Marshfield (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm

Boys Hockey (Varsity and JV)

Sat. Dec. 3	Chequamegon High (Varsity)	Away	12:00 pm
Tues. Dec. 6	Stevens Point (JV)	Marathon Park	5:00 pm
Tues. Dec. 6	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Marathon Park	7:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 8	Wausau West (Varsity)	Away	5:30 pm

Girls Hockey (Varsity and JV)

Fri. Dec. 2	Stoughton (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Sat. Dec. 3	Middleton (Varsity)	Away	4:30 pm
Tues. Dec. 6	Medford (JV)	Everest	5:00 pm
Tues. Dec. 6	Medford (Varsity)	Everest	7:00 pm

Boys Wrestling (Varsity and JV)

Fri. Dec. 2	Kimberly-Multiple Schools (JV)	Away	4:00 pm
Sat. Dec. 3	Kimberly-Multiple Schools (Varsity)	Away	8:00 am
Thurs. Dec. 8	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	6:00 pm

Girls Wrestling (Varsity)

Thurs. Dec. 8	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Bailee Sommer, a Sophomore at Merrill High School (MHS) has been named Athlete of the Week. This is her second year on the Merrill Girls Varsity Swim Team, and she just competed at State with her relay teammates in the 200 Yard Medley Relay for the second year in a row. Her team finished 13th at State this year. Bailee ran Track at Prairie River Middle School, took part of last year off due to an injury but competed in the 200’s and long jump and ran the 4x800 at Sectionals, she said (and occasionally, she runs a 4x200 relay), and plans to participate in Track again this spring.

At school, Bailee belongs to Junior Optimists, Raise Your Voice Club, Student Council, and FFA. Outside of school, Bailee enjoys barrel racing and has been working with her newest horse, Quinn, who is still in training, she said. She enjoys just riding for fun as well as competing.

In her free time, which is very limited, she enjoys hanging out with friends and family, going fishing or ATVing, and just enjoys being outdoors.

The daughter of Betsy and Greg Sommer of Merrill, Bailee has a 3.6 GPA and plans to attend UW-River Falls to become an equine veterinarian.



Bailee Sommer

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